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Farm Mobilization FACT SHEET

Conservation and Sanitation -- Keys to Best Grain Use

Making the best use of the grain which farmers produce this year is of vital importance. Grain is a major food ingredient, and as a basic feed for farm animals is the essential raw material for producing milk, meat, and eggs. Like metals and chemicals, grain is indispensable to national strength and defense.

To make the most of our grain supplies the U. S. Department of Agriculture is currently stressing (1) conservation in the use of grain, and (2) sanitary storage and handling. The latter problem is being attacked through a cooperative program with the Federal Security Agency and the Department of Interior. Cooperation of the grain trade and agricultural organizations is sought in all phases of grain use, storage and handling.

CONSERVATION, LIKE PRODUCTION, MEANS MORE GRAIN

Farmers are already responding to the call for high-level grain production this year. The wheat crop will probably be one of our largest in history. The output of corn and other feed grains, however, may fall short of the goal. And demand for grain, especially feed grains, is unusually heavy. Thus, we must conserve and use wisely the grain now on hand that is produced this year.

As for sanitation, clean grain is essential for high quality food products which are processed directly from grain. Keeping grain clean also serves the conservation program--preserving quantity as well as quality.

Both conservation and sanitation call for protecting grain from weather, pests, and debris--which take tremendous tolls of good food and feed materials.

Agricultural officials estimate that from 5 to 10 percent of all stored grain is destroyed by insects alone. Rats, mice and birds consume additional quantities of stored cereal crops--perhaps another 5 percent of the total. When grain is stored damp or subject to dampness in storage, still other losses occur.

At such rates of destruction, pests consume grain equal to the amount fed to all the livestock in the country for at least a month. Since ample grain supplies are essential to national defense, the entire Nation will benefit when we stop feeding valuable grain to rats, mice, birds, and insects. Farmers and other grain owners will benefit financially too, from practices that protect grain in storage and control pests.

Efforts to inform farmers and the grain industry how they can take part in the grain sanitation and conservation program emphasize the following aims:

● ADEQUATE STORAGE CAPACITY, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE--Farmers who do not now have adequate farm storage for their grain and are not sure of having commercial storage space, should take immediate steps to provide more good storage space on the farm. Adequate storage is especially important to farmers so that they can do a more orderly job of marketing and make full use of the price support program. Repairs and maintenance are also essential to keep a high level of storage space available.

Adequate storage also means structures that are weather and fumigant tight, strong enough to hold the grain, and equipped to stop rodent entrance. Grain will not long maintain its quality if stored damp. See Farmers' Bulletin 2009 for information on safe storage, grain moisture limits, and methods of drying damp grain with mechanical ventilation.

● CONTROL OF RODENTS--Grain losses from rats and mice can be considerably lessened by using up-to-date control methods, including community action programs for longtime control. See Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 8--"Save Grain by Destroying Rats and Mice."

● KEEPING INSECTS OUT OF STORED GRAIN--Alertness to insect infestation in growing grain crops and on through the period of storage can reduce losses from insects to a minimum. See Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 10--"Save Farm-Stored Grain From Insects."

● INSECT CONTROL FOR GRAIN IN TRANSIT--Not only farmers but local elevator men, truckers and shippers of grain can save considerable amounts of grain by shipping only insect-free grain and keeping shipping space free from conditions which allow insects to develop. See Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 11--"Save Grain in Transit--Keep Insects Out."

● SANITARY STORAGE AND HANDLING OF FOOD GRAINS--Wheat and other food grains used for processing directly into food must be kept especially clean. The Food and Drug Administration of the Federal Security Agency--which has been working for several years with bakeries, flour mills and grain warehousemen to help secure good-quality grain products--is directing its efforts this year to local elevators and the farm to avoid grain contamination.

Food and Drug Administration officials inspect grain storage facilities and grain for evidence of contamination. It is to the financial advantage of farmers to keep grain clean. They can help assure that grain shipments will meet sanitation requirements by following recommended storage and handling practices to keep grain free of damage from rodents, birds, insects, and other contaminating elements.

● ELIMINATING WASTE IN FEEDING GRAIN TO LIVESTOCK--No grain conservation program is complete unless wasteful, careless methods of feeding are curbed at the point of final use and unless the grain is used in the most efficient

manner for getting high-level output of animal products. For example, waste can be reduced by the use of feeding floors and self-feeders.

Efficient grain feeding actually calls for care in handling every phase of livestock production. Not only are proper feed and balanced rations important, but an entire program which cuts down losses of young animals, minimizes disease and insect attacks, and generally increases output of milk, meat and eggs per animal unit contributes to feed conservation.

THE INFORMATION JOB--SOME WAYS TO DO IT

Getting the story of grain conservation and sanitation to farmers calls for channeling the facts widely through various agencies, industry organizations, and information media. Here are some suggestions:

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Industry associations and manufacturers who supply farmers with pesticides, spraying equipment and storage facilities can:

- Stress the need for grain conservation and sanitation through fieldmen, salesmen and retailers, keeping them informed by means of meetings, trade publications, and other outlets.
- Tell the reasons for the program in advertising copy for newspapers, magazines, brochures, and radio.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture agencies can:

- Keep farmers informed about their part in the program through personal contact, circular letters, talks at farm meetings, and other outlets.
- Keep local suppliers and dealers in pesticides and storage facilities informed as to the program and needs of local farmers for supplies.
- Inform grain industry people and shippers of the need for grain conservation and sanitation and what can be done to achieve them.

GENERAL OUTLETS

Farm magazines and newspapers, daily and weekly newspapers with rural circulation, national and farm radio and television producers, advertising concerns and other outlets can:

- Use stories and feature articles on experiences of local farmers concerning rodent and insect control, as well as efficient methods of livestock feeding.
- Report the local situation as to farm and commercial storage capacity.

- Explain the program for cleaner food grains for the benefit of farmers, elevator men and grain shippers.
- In stories, advertising copy, and program planning, use background on the need for conserving the Nation's grain supplies and the defense-importance of grain.

GRAIN CONSERVATION INFORMATION--WHERE TO GET IT

Farmers should be referred for how-to-do-it information to their county agricultural agent in the county seat. They may also want to contact their State extension specialists in entomology, agricultural engineering, or animal husbandry, and County Committees of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Technicians or others who need fuller information or technical advice may want to consult the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Insect control in particular is the responsibility of the USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Rodent control information is available from the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

Other sources of information include the following publications. Copies have already been distributed to the Extension Service and other USDA agencies. If copies cannot be obtained at local offices, write the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 8--"Save Grain by Destroying Rats and Mice."

Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 10--"Save Farm-Stored Grain From Insects."

Farm Mobilization Fact Sheet No. 11--"Save Grain in Transit--Keep Insects Out."

"Grain is Food--Keep it Clean"--IAFS-3 (BEPQ)

"Make Most of Cattle Feeds"--(BAI)

"Feed Poultry Efficiently"--(BAI)

"Wormy Pigs Waste Feed"--(BAI)

"Broiler Profits Depend on Efficient Feed Conservation"--(BAI)

"Storage of Small Grains and Shelled Corn"--FB 2009.

"Storage of Ear Corn on the Farm"--FB 2010.

"Mechanical Drying of Corn on the Farm"--Circular 839.

